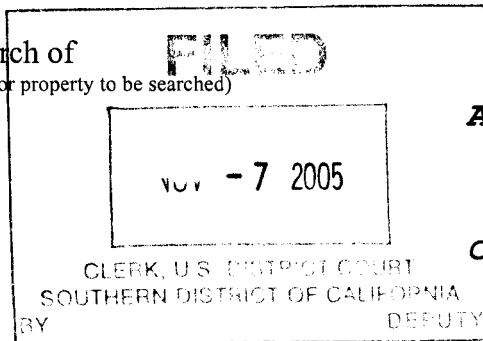


**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Search of  
(Name, address or brief description of person or property to be searched)

**1621 Alamo Road  
Holtville, CA 92250**



**APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT  
FOR SEARCH WARRANT**

**CASE NUMBER: '05 mg 8651**

*Joe Ter  
POUC STANITA*

I Donald E. Webster being duly sworn depose and say:

I am a Senior Special Agent, U. S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement and have reason to believe that on the premises known as:

**ATTACHMENT A & A-1**

In the SOUTHERN District of CALIFORNIA there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely (describe the person or property)

**ATTACHMENT B**

which is (give alleged grounds for search and seizure under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure)

Subject to seizure under Rule 41(b)(1), property that constitutes evidence of the commission of a criminal offense or (2) contraband, the fruits of crime or thing otherwise criminally possessed

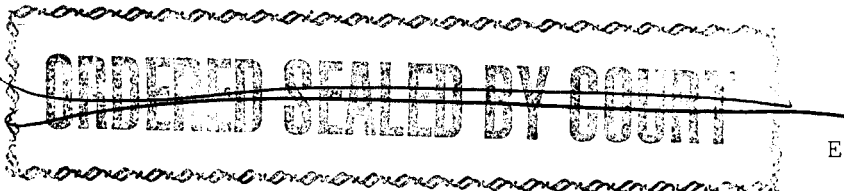
In violation of **8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii),(iii), (iv),(v)(I),(v)(II), and (a)(2)(B)(ii), and 18 U.S.C. § 2**

The facts to support the issuance of a Search Warrant are as follows:

**SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT**

Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof.

☒ Yes ☐ No



*Donald E. Webster*  
Donald E. Webster, Senior Special Agent  
U. S. Immigration & Customs  
Enforcement

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence

*November 7, 2005*

Date

at El Centro, CA  
City and State

PETER C. LEWIS  
U. S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
Name and Title of Judicial Officer

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Judicial Officer

**RETURN**

DATE WARRANT RECEIVED

DATE AND TIME WARRANT  
EXECUTEDCOPY OF WARRANT AND  
RECEIPT FOR ITEMS LEFT  
WITH

INVENTORY MADE IN THE PRESENCE OF:

INVENTORY OF PERSON OR PROPERTY TAKEN PURSUANT TO THE WARRANT

**CERTIFICATION**

I swear that this inventory is a true and detailed account of the person or property taken by me on the warrant.

\_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed, sworn to, and returned before me this date.

\_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Judge or Magistrate

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Premises to be searched**

The premise to be searched is located in Imperial County on the western outskirts of Holtville, California. The primary residence (not involved) has a physical address of 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California. Alamo Road runs east and west with several rural residences nearby. The residence at 1621 Alamo Road sits on a lot that is approximately 1 acre in size. Towards the south end of the lot sits a two-car garage that appears to have been converted into a residence (hereinafter "Target Residence"). The "Target Residence" to be searched has a black security screen door without numbers. The "Target Residence" has unpainted wood grained plywood and two full sized garage doors with two windows located on the south side of the residence.

**ATTACHMENT A-1**

**LIST OF ITEMS TO BE SEARCHED:**

- Converted two car garage located adjacent to 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California;
- Outside perimeter, including trash at 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California



**Attachment B**

**The items to be seized:** passports, altered or fraudulent identification and immigration documents, various forms of United States Government documentation relating to alienage; travel documents; foreign and domestic correspondence relating to alien smuggling arrangements; airline/airfare tickets; lists containing names of associates and arrangers involved in alien smuggling activity; lists containing names of smuggled aliens along with their destinations and fees paid or to be paid; vehicle registrations of vehicles used in the smuggling and transporting of illegal aliens; financial records; bank statements; telephone records and bills; documents and receipts relating to evidence of temporary lodging of illegal aliens; documents indicating possession, dominion, and/or control of the property and any structures thereon; personal property of smuggled aliens in the form of wallets, purses, suitcases, tote bags, and clothing; utility bills; money orders and money order receipts; ~~computer disks or diskettes and hard drives and the contents therein utilized to maintain alien smuggling transaction records;~~ and cellular telephones utilized to facilitate the bringing in, harboring, and transporting of illegal aliens.

PCL

**AFFIDAVIT**

1  
2 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA** )  
3 ) ss  
4 **COUNTY OF IMPERIAL** )

5 I, Donald E. Webster, Senior Special Agent, Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
6 (ICE), being duly sworn, hereby depose and state:  
7

**A. Training and Experience**

8  
9 1. I have been a Senior Special Agent (SSA) with United States Immigration and  
10 Customs Enforcement since March 2003. Prior to that, I was an investigator with the  
11 Anti-smuggling Unit assigned to the El Centro Border Patrol Sector. Prior to that I was a  
12 Supervisory Border Patrol Agent in El Centro, California, since January 1989. I am  
13 currently assigned to the Calexico, California Office of Investigations, Human  
14 Trafficking Group. The Human Trafficking Group is tasked with investigating, arresting,  
15 and prosecuting alien smuggling organizations that utilize the Southern District of  
16 California as an operational corridor. These investigations are complex criminal  
17 investigations of mid- to high-level criminal smuggling organizations.  
18

19 2. During my career, I have investigated and assisted in investigating multiple  
20 smuggling organizations, which resulted in the issuance of arrest warrants, search  
21 warrants, seizure warrants and the indictments/convictions individuals for alien  
22 smuggling. These persons include drivers, recruiters, arrangers, document providers, and  
23 top-level managers.  
24

25 3. In the course of my current duties, I investigate and prepare for prosecution cases  
26 against persons involved in the inducement of illegal entry of undocumented aliens into  
27  
28

1 the United States; the smuggling of undocumented aliens into the United States; the  
2 transportation and harboring of undocumented aliens within the United States; and the  
3 utilization of illegally-obtained, counterfeit, altered or genuine immigration documents by  
4 undocumented aliens to illegally gain entry or remain in the United States.  
5

6 4. It is my experience, and the experience of many law enforcement officers with  
7 whom I have worked and conversed, that a conspiracy to smuggle aliens, and the  
8 smuggling of aliens, generates many types of evidence. Examples include passports,  
9 altered or fraudulent identification and immigration documents, various forms of United  
10 States Government documentation relating to alienage; travel documents; foreign and  
11 domestic correspondence relating to alien smuggling arrangements; airline/airfare tickets;  
12 lists containing names of associates and arrangers involved in alien smuggling activity;  
13 lists containing names of smuggled aliens along with their destinations and fees paid or to  
14 be paid; vehicle registrations of vehicles used in the smuggling and transporting of illegal  
15 aliens; financial records; bank statements; telephone records and bills; documents and  
16 receipts relating to evidence of temporary lodging of illegal aliens; documents indicating  
17 possession, dominion, and/or control of the property and any structures thereon; personal  
18 property of smuggled aliens in the form of wallets, purses, suitcases, tote bags, and  
19 clothing; utility bills; money orders and money order receipts; computer disks or diskettes  
20 and hard drives and the contents therein utilized to maintain alien smuggling transaction  
21 records; and cellular telephones utilized to facilitate the bringing in, harboring, and  
22 transporting of illegal aliens.  
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26 //

1  
2 **B. Purpose of This Affidavit**

3 5. This affidavit is submitted in support of an application for the issuance of a search  
4 warrant for one structure located at 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California, 92250, and  
5 more fully described in Attachment A and depicted in Attachment A-1, incorporated  
6 herein by reference. A description of items to be seized is set forth in Attachment B,  
7 incorporated herein by reference. Because the purpose of this affidavit is merely to  
8 provide probable cause for the issuance of a search warrant, it does not contain all  
9 information developed in connection with the investigation described herein. The  
10 information set forth below is based upon my personal observations, my conversations  
11 with other law enforcement personnel, review of reports prepared by myself or other law  
12 enforcement personnel, and conversations with other witnesses.  
13  
14

15 **C. Summary of Investigation**

16 6. In 2003, the USBP Anti-Smuggling Unit (ASU) began investigating an alien  
17 smuggling organization that arranges transportation and harboring of undocumented  
18 aliens in Imperial County, California. As described herein, the investigation has revealed  
19 that undocumented aliens are transported to load houses near Holtville, and then north to  
20 Los Angeles, California. Arrangements are then made for the delivery of the  
21 undocumented aliens to their sponsors after payment of the smuggling fee. As described  
22 herein, the investigation has identified: (1) a current load house at 1621 Alamo Road,  
23 Holtville, California 92250.  
24  
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1 7. Described below is a series of events including apprehensions, arrests,  
2 surveillance, and witness statements. Based on these events and information, there is  
3 probable cause to believe that members of the alien smuggling organization are involved  
4 in a conspiracy to conceal and transport illegal aliens, and to bring illegal aliens into the  
5 United States, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324.  
6

7 8. On January 23, 2003, Special Agents from the Anti-Smuggling Unit (ASU) in El  
8 Centro, California, apprehended eighteen undocumented aliens at 2001 E. McCabe Road,  
9 Holtville, California.  
10

11 9. On February 19, 2003, Special Agents returned to 2001 E. McCabe Road,  
12 Holtville, California, and apprehended an additional six undocumented aliens on the  
13 property.  
14

15 10. On May 07, 2003, ASU Special Agent Webster received a telephone call from an  
16 individual (hereinafter "CI-1"), stating that several aliens had been placed in a converted  
17 garage located at 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California. CI-1 also stated that the  
18 undocumented aliens would be transported into the interior of the United States in a  
19 tractor-trailer. Special Agents responded to the 1621 Alamo Road and began surveillance  
20 on May 07, 2003 at approximately 6:30 p.m. Agents continuously monitored the  
21 residence and observed several subjects being removed from the residence and placed  
22 into a red tractor-trailer.  
23

24 11. ASU agents followed the above-referenced tractor-trailer from 1621 Alamo Road  
25 to the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint near Niland, California, where it was inspected with  
26 the consent of the driver. Border Patrol Agents at the checkpoint located fourteen  
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28

1 undocumented aliens concealed inside the refrigerated trailer. The driver and passenger  
2 were arrested and processed for transportation of illegal aliens, in violation of 8 U.S.C. §  
3 1324. Subsequent investigation revealed that Alberto Noriega-Perez is the owner of the  
4 property at 1621 Alamo Road, and 2001 East McCabe Road, Holtville, California.  
5

6 12. On October 31, 2004, Elvis Campos-Pantoja was arrested by Border Patrol El  
7 Centro at a local motel with three illegal aliens from Mexico. On November 11, 2004,  
8 Agent Webster identified Campos' truck as a Ford F-250 with California license plates  
9 4W67337. Agent Webster observed the truck coming in and out of the property located  
10 at 2001 E. McCabe Road, Holtville, California. On December 12, 2004, a check with the  
11 Imperial Irrigation District revealed that Elvis Campos was paying the electric bill at 2001  
12 E. McCabe Road, Holtville, California.  
13

14 13. On January 23, 2005, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Calexico Border Patrol Agents  
15 apprehended a smuggling event due to a lookout from Border Patrol Yuma, Arizona. A  
16 truck registered to Elvis CAMPOS-Pantoja, described as a 1994 black Ford F-250 with  
17 California license plates 4W67337, had a tarp covering several persons in the bed. The  
18 truck was being driven west on Interstate 8 into California. Agents stopped the truck and  
19 apprehended ten illegal aliens from Mexico. No driver was identified.  
20

21 14. On January 27, 2005, Calexico Border Patrol Agents apprehended a tandem load  
22 on Interstate 8 with 2 drivers/principals and nine undocumented aliens. One of the  
23 drivers took Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Nelson Atilas to 2001 E. McCabe Road and  
24 told him that he was taking the aliens to this property.  
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1       15. On February 27, 2005, Calexico Border Patrol agents assisted the local Sheriff's  
2 office during a disturbance at 2001 E. Mc Cabe Road. Agents located and apprehended  
3 eighteen undocumented aliens. Elvis Campos was located in an administrative house and  
4 two stolen vehicles were also recovered from inside the 2001 E. McCabe Road property.  
5 During this event, Campos was driving a white Ford Expedition bearing California  
6 license plates 5LEN094 registered to Martin Pantoja. This vehicle has been seen several  
7 times at 1621 Alamo Road and 2001 E. McCabe Road, Holtville, California.  
8

9       16. On March 16, 2005, ICE agents were observing the property at 1621 Alamo Road,  
10 Holtville, California. Agents watched as several subjects were removed from the  
11 converted garage at 1621 Alamo Road and placed into the bed and extended cab portion  
12 of a pick-up truck described as a 1995 blue Chevrolet 1500 pick-up truck, California  
13 license plates 4E21107. The vehicle was stopped and eighteen illegal aliens were  
14 apprehended. The driver of this vehicle, Jose LOPEZ-Hernandez, was arrested and  
15 prosecuted for transportation of illegal aliens, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1324. LOPEZ-  
16 Hernandez has pleaded guilty and has been sentenced.  
17

18       17. On May 5, 2005, at approximately 12:15 p.m., a vehicle departed from 1621  
19 Alamo Road, Holtville, California. Border Patrol Agents attempted to stop the vehicle,  
20 which resulted in a failure to yield. Agents finally were able to stop the vehicle after a  
21 lengthy pursuit cross country through the desert. A driver and passenger were the only  
22 occupants. During interviews, it was determined that the passenger was Rogelio PEREZ-  
23 Bravo, a sixteen-year-old citizen of Mexico. PEREZ admitted to Special Agent Paul  
24 Lewenthal that he and the driver were going to pick up illegal aliens. PEREZ further  
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1 admitted that he was the nephew of Alberto Noriega-Perez. Record checks show that  
2 Rogelio PEREZ was apprehended at 2001 E. McCabe Road on February 21, 2005.

3 18. On July 21, 2005, at approximately 2:06 a.m., Calexico Border Patrol  
4 apprehended a driver and nine illegal aliens near Ogilby Road and Interstate 8. One of  
5 the individuals apprehended on this occasion was Rogelio PEREZ. The vehicle utilized  
6 was a 1993 Red GMC Z-71, California license plate 4U65812. This vehicle was seen at  
7 2001 E. McCabe Road, Holtville, California, prior to this apprehension.  
8

9 19. On August 29, 2005, Agent Webster met with an individual (hereinafter "CI-2")  
10 that provided information regarding the property located at 2001 E. McCabe Road,  
11 Holtville, California. CI-2 stated that Alberto Noriega owned the property located at  
12 2001 E. McCabe Road and has been present when illegal aliens were staged at the  
13 property for further movement into the United States. CI-2 stated that Alberto Noriega  
14 knowingly rents out his properties to smugglers for \$1,500 per month to further the  
15 movement of illegal aliens into the United States. Furthermore, CI-2 stated that several  
16 key drivers working for the "Perfino" organization stay at the property.  
17  
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19 20. On September 4, 2005, ICE agents received information from an individual  
20 (hereinafter "CI-3") that at least sixty illegal aliens were at the property located at 2001 E.  
21 McCabe Road, Holtville, California. Agents began surveillance of the property and  
22 Agent Webster observed a white Ford F-150 extended cab pick-up truck entering the  
23 property at approximately 6:36 p.m. Agent Webster observed Alberto Noriega walk to  
24 the gate of the property and then to a trailer known to contain aliens. Thirteen minutes  
25 later the F-150 left the property with at least three persons sitting in the front seat. ICE  
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1 agents followed the vehicle until a Custom and Border Protection helicopter arrived and  
2 the pilot was able to see that a tarp was covering several persons in the bed of the truck.  
3 ICE agents attempted to stop the F-150 but the driver failed to yield and fled at a high rate  
4 of speed. ICE agents pursued the F-150 for more than sixty miles before the driver  
5 crashed into a large brush pile in the middle of the Chocolate Mountains gunnery range  
6 east of Niland, California. The driver fled and evaded apprehension. However, ICE  
7 agents were able to apprehend seventeen illegal aliens from Mexico.  
8

9 21. Special Agent Lewenthal interviewed the seventeen aliens referenced above and  
10 learned that they had been at a ranch for one day during which time they had observed up  
11 to eighty other illegal aliens coming and going from the house where they were kept. One  
12 person interviewed stated that when they arrived at the ranch house, a person asked them  
13 who brought them and then wrote down their names into a book. Shortly before they got  
14 into the truck, one of the witnesses stated that a man received a boost radio transmission  
15 that told him to move his truck because the driver of the white truck was coming into the  
16 property to load up with aliens. When the white truck arrived they were placed into it and  
17 the truck left the property.  
18

19 22. On September 28, 2005, a documented confidential informant hereafter identified  
20 as SA-522-CA, provided the following information regarding 2001 East McCabe Road in  
21 Holtville, California; SA-522-CA stated that he went to the McCabe Road location and  
22 observed approximately forty plus undocumented aliens. He spoke with the caretaker  
23 "Cejas". SA-522-CA further stated that "Cejas" told him that he was in charge of the  
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1 aliens at the ranch and that business was prospering and that they would continue  
2 utilizing the ranch to stage large numbers of undocumented aliens.

3 23. On September 29, 2005, SA-522-CA reported that he spoke with another known  
4 driver, "Negro". "Negro" stated that they were moving two and three trucks full of aliens  
5 per night out of the McCabe ranch property. He further stated that business was good  
6 and that they would continue to move large numbers of aliens from the McCabe ranch on  
7 a daily basis.

8  
9 24. On October 7, 2005, SA-522-CA reported that the organization was going to  
10 move aliens from the McCabe ranch property. SSA Webster relayed that information to  
11 El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents who were conducting an intelligence operation  
12 along the organizations route of travel in the Chocolate Mountain Bombing range.  
13 Border Patrol Agents encountered five smuggling vehicles resulting in forty-four arrests.  
14 During the apprehension, three vehicles were stopped with a controlled tire deflation  
15 device. One of those vehicles attempted to abscond resulting in a roll over accident with  
16 fourteen persons requiring hospitalization. The driver of that vehicle was one of those  
17 transported to the hospital and subsequently absconded. That driver was identified by  
18 SA-522-CA as "Catracho", a known driver of the organization.

19  
20 25. On October 10, 2005, SA-522-CA reported that the organization had over eighty  
21 undocumented aliens housed at the McCabe ranch and that they would be moved on  
22 October 11, 2005.

23  
24 26. On October 11, 2005, I.C.E. Agents served a Federal Search Warrant at 2001 E.  
25 McCabe Road, Holtville, CA. Agents arrested seventy-four (74) illegal aliens in several  
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1 structures on the property. Oscar Guadalupe CASTANEDA-Rocha, AKA "CEJAS" was  
2 identified and prosecuted as the caretaker of the aliens.

3 27. During the week following the service of the search warrant, SA-522-CA was able  
4 to record a conversation he had with Alberto Noriega. Noriega offered to rent his  
5 property at 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California, to the organization for a rental fee of  
6 One Thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per month and stated that it was big enough to hold  
7 fifty or sixty undocumented aliens inside. SA-522-CA paid Noriega the One Thousand  
8 dollars (\$1,000.00) to rent the Alamo property.  
9

10 28. On October 28, 2005, SA-522-CA stated that he observed twenty-nine (29)  
11 undocumented aliens at the property located at 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California.  
12 Video surveillance captured two trucks arriving at approximately 3:00p.m. One truck  
13 was backed inside the garage, and the garage door was closed down to the hood in order  
14 to block any view inside the garage. The second truck was parked on the side of the  
15 garage. Several subjects came out of the garage and were placed into the bed of the truck.  
16 These subjects were then covered by a tarp and both trucks left the property at the same  
17 time.  
18

19 29. On October 29, 2005, at approximately 3:00p.m, another truck arrived at the  
20 Alamo property and backed into the garage. The door was closed down to the hood and a  
21 few minutes later, the truck left.  
22

23 30. On November 2, 2005, at approximately 3:00p.m, Agents watching 1621 Alamo  
24 Road, Holtville, California, observed two trucks enter the property. The first truck, a  
25 green Chevrolet extended cab 4x4, backed into the south garage door. The door was  
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1 lowered and several minutes later, the door was opened and the green truck left. Border  
2 Patrol Agents in the area attempted to stop the green truck resulting in a failure to yield.  
3 An unsuccessful attempt was made to deploy a tire deflation device. The driver of the  
4 green truck began traveling at a high rate of speed and evaded apprehension.  
5

6 31. The second truck was a white Chevrolet extended cab 4x4 pickup truck. Once the  
7 green truck left, the driver backed his white truck into the garage and the door was again  
8 closed. Several minutes later, the white truck departed the property. Border Patrol  
9 Agents eventually were able to catch up to the white truck and attempted to stop it. The  
10 white truck failed to yield and Agents were able to successfully deploy a tire deflation  
11 device causing the truck to stop a short distance later. Rogelio PEREZ-Bravo, seventeen  
12 years of age, was apprehended in the driver's seat. PEREZ admitted on a prior  
13 apprehension that his uncle was Alberto NORIEGA-Perez, the owner of both the Alamo  
14 and McCabe properties. The front seat passenger Kareem CEJA-Chon was identified and  
15 admitted that he was assisting PEREZ in transporting illegal aliens. Agents located  
16 fifteen additional subjects concealed in the extended cab and bed of the white truck. Each  
17 of the subjects admitted that they were citizens and nationals of Mexico, illegally present  
18 in the United States. CEJA described the Alamo property as the location where he and  
19 PEREZ picked up the illegal aliens. CEJA also admitted that he and PEREZ picked up  
20 thirteen other undocumented aliens from the Alamo property one week ago.  
21

22 32. On November 7, 2005, SA-522-CA stated that he observed 32 undocumented  
23 aliens being held at 1621 Alamo Road, Holtville, California. These undocumented aliens  
24 are to be transported to Los Angeles, California, this evening.  
25

26 //  
27



**E. Conclusion:**

33. Based on the above-described information and observations, I believe there is probable cause to search the structure described in Attachment A and depicted in Attachment A-1 for evidence of violations of 8 U.S.C. § 1324 (a)(1)(A)(ii), (iii), (iv), (v)(I), (v)(II), and (a)(2)(B)(ii), and 18 U.S.C. § 2, including all items described in Attachment B.

34. It is further requested that this affidavit and the accompanying application and warrant be sealed due to the ongoing criminal investigation.

  
Donald E. Webster, Special Agent  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Subscribed to and sworn to before me

this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2005.

  
PETER C. LEWIS  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE